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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/787,246	02/27/2004	Guenter Jokschas	037141.53216US	1271

  

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EXAMINER	
PHAM, MINH CHAU THI	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1724	

DATE MAILED: 04/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/787,246

Applicant(s)

JOKSCHAS ET AL.

Examiner

Minh-Chau T. Pham

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/16/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaupp (4,502,955).

Schaupp discloses a fuel filter (col. 1, lines 4-6) comprising a housing (12) with at least one filter (28) therein so as to separate an unfiltered side (48) from a clean side (49) and the housing (12) having an inlet opening (14) into the unfiltered side and an outlet opening (16) from the clean side and at least one filter element (28) being situated in the housing (12) in a flow path between the unfiltered side and the clean side, wherein the first and second devices (82, 83) of separating and draining of water are provided, respectively, on the unfiltered side (48) and on the clean side (49) of the

filter (see Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 14-18, col. 3, lines 1-26, col. 4, lines 60-65). Schaupp further discloses the first and second collecting chambers (48 and 49) arranged coaxially with the water drain plug (79) and a gasket being a sealing ring which is held by a water drain plug between two contacting surfaces (col. 4, lines 60-65). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a draining device on either one of the unfiltered and clean side in order to effectively separate contaminants such as water from fuel being supplied to an engine.

Claims 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaupp (4,502,955), in view of Hoffman et al (3,418,789).

Claims 8-14 call for the gasket held on a pin attached to a plunger and is pressed by a spring. Hoffman et al disclose a liquid discharge mechanism having a gasket (118) held on a piston or plunger and is pressed by a spring (140) (see col. 5, lines 1-9 and line 49 through col. 6, line 45). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the invention was made to adopt the liquid discharge mechanism as taught by Hoffman et al in the filtration apparatus of Schaupp in order to receive and store undesired liquid and automatically discharge the liquid to waste as it accumulates beyond a predetermined maximum quantity.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Veres et al (3,378,993) disclose an air line filter.

- Gerulis (4,581,135) discloses a fluid filter with a drain.
- Hodgkins (6,248,236 B1) discloses a double pass fuel filter assembly.
- Reinhardt (6,605,210 B2) discloses a hydraulic fluid filter device.
- Girondi (6,783,665 B1) discloses a unit for automatically bleeding off water.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Chau T. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-1163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**Minh-Chau Pham**  
**Patent Examiner**  
**Art Unit: 1724**  
**April 11, 2005**